

1 **Evergreen Communities Inventory Project**
2 **Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**

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4 **10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M. - February 5, 2009**

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6 **DNR Compound 801 88th Ave. SE, Tumwater, WA**

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8 **Members Present:** Linden Mead, Sharon London, Ara Erickson, Mark Mead, Sarah Griffith, Tina
9 Melton, Terry Flatley, Scott Maco, Ginny Lohr, Garth Davis, David Kuhn, Dan DeWald, Kevin
10 McFarland, Micki McNaughton, Christy Osborn,

11 **Members Absent:** Brian Gilles, Monika Moskal, and Galen Wright

12 **Guests:** Vicki Lee, Nicki Eisfeldt, Darrel Johnston, and Margaret Barrette

13 **Visitors:** Vance Julien - UW, and Leigh Holcombe – UW

14 Meeting began at 10:10 a.m.

15 **Action Items:**

16 Committee members will:

- 17 • Provide contact information for a member contact list
18 • Feel free to provide comments, feedback on the meeting or share information via project web
19 page.
20 • Forward information on canopy assessment tools to Linden by the end of February.
21 • Route travel vouchers and receipts to Vicki for processing.

22 Linden will send revised meeting schedule to committee

23 Tina will confirm meeting location and provide site map/directions for March meeting in Kent .

24 Terry will confirm meeting location for April 20th meeting in Renton.

25 **Meeting Handouts:**

- 26 • Agenda
27 • Draft of Roles and Responsibilities
28 • Work Plan
29 • Tree Inventories, Part 1, Objectives and Tactics
30 • Tree Inventories, Part 2, Strategic Decisions
31 • Chapter 76.15 RCW
32 • Chapter 35.105 RCW
33 • Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 2844
34 • Travel Vouchers

35
36 **Welcome, Meeting Objectives, Agenda, and Introductions**

37 Linden Mead welcomed everyone and turned the meeting over to the Facilitator, Margaret Barrette.

38 Darrel Johnston welcomed everyone, and introduced himself as Acting Assistant manager of DNR's
39 Resource Protection division which houses the Urban and Community Forestry Program He emphasized
40 the role of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) in fulfilling a requirement of the Evergreen

Communities Act (ECA) to develop a tree inventory criteria and implementation plan for a state wide community forest inventory and assessment. Johnston thanked everyone for volunteering their time and contributing their experience to the Committee.

Margaret went over meeting objectives, the agenda, and logistics.

Introductions were made around the table during which committee members were asked to state a management goal that could be achieved through a tree inventory. (See list below):

- Long range planning for communities
- Forecasting
- A tool to gain information about insects and disease
- Nice picture in time – good communication tool
- Assists with FEMA funding requests
- Identifies what is responsible for effective management
- Helps establish value
- Land cover analysis (forest cover & street trees)
- Prioritizes work to be done
- Useful as tool if dynamic and updated
- Needs spatial component, places trees as a resource benefiting other planning efforts and tools
- Identifies trends; both positive and risks
- Involves community & educates public
- Mitigates urban growth issues
- Sets forth standards and practices
- Good base for research
- Helps manage diversity within the urban forest resource
- Mitigation and how to implement within local jurisdictions
- Assists in tracking of goals
- Determines health and condition of forests and public safety
- Provides metrics to create a proactive vs. reactive program
- Captures existing infrastructure
- Prepares local jurisdictions for emerging markets; carbon
- Learn what is out there
- Tool to help communities
- Implements urban forest sustainability model, especially helpful as a communication element
- Assist in appropriate distribution of resources across city
- Helps build budgets
- Shares data – learn from each other

Review of Evergreen Communities Bill

Sarah Griffith provided background information on the Evergreen Communities Bill which was signed into law on April 1, 2008. She pointed out that two different departments are referenced in the document.

Any reference to “Department” in Sections 3-5 (reflected in amendments and additions to Chapter 76.15 RCW) refers to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). References that follow sections 3-5 refer to the Department of Community Economic and Trade Development (CTED). DNR is coordinating the Inventory portion of the Bill and providing technical assistance to CTED, who is responsible for: developing 1) a Model Ordinance, 2) a Model Management Plan, and 3) an Evergreen Communities Recognition Program.

Roles and Responsibilities, and Charter

Margaret reviewed the handout describing Roles and Responsibilities and discussed meeting ground rules.

The meetings will be less than a whole day, and be open to the public.

The public will have an opportunity to provide comments at the meetings.

Meetings are advertised on the Evergreen Communities web page..

The TAC will be assisting with development of the criteria and implementation plan for the statewide community and urban forest inventory and assessment. Once the plan is completed, the Committee will be disbanded.

Information for committee consideration will be sent via email and/or posted on the ECA TAC web page at the following link

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/researchscience/topics/UrbanForestry/Pages/rp_urban_eca_tac.aspx

The committee was invited to submit to Linden any information they feel is important to the committee for posting on the website. Nicki Eisfeldt, web designer for DNR Resource Protection, was introduced to the committee.

Draft Work Plan (See handout)

Linden discussed key points of the work plan. The work plan is grouped into 5 categories: goals, types of inventories and assessments, data collection, data storage and the implementation plan. There will be two more committee meetings, one in March and one in April. In addition, Committee members may be asked to provide additional feedback and/or information to Linden, between meetings.

Suggested data criteria are outlined in the Bill with specific language requiring that inventories be designed to support the planning needs of local government and to facilitate access to carbon markets.. Linden will collect data points and design a matrix for Committee review. The Committee will also be asked to review methods for data collection, discuss tools and technology for data collection, and provide input into inventory implementation.

The Committee will also be asked to comment on proposal specifications for data collection services and tree inventory software.

It is anticipated that the Implementation and Criteria Plan will be complete by mid-May for Committee review, finalized and be ready for legislative review by the beginning of June,

Additional Components of the Bill

Micki gave an update on the Evergreen Communities partnership Task Force (ECPTF) which has met twice and will continue meeting monthly through June 2009. Committee members are welcome to attend the meetings, as they are open to the public. All meetings will be located in Olympia. CTED also has a website on line, which may be accessed by a link posted on the DNR EGC web page. The web page provides extensive research and background materials on ordinances, management plans, and strategic plans.

CTED is tasked with three items from the Evergreen Communities Act, and they are developing: 1) Model Ordinances, 2) Model Management Plans, and 3) Recognition Program. All three of these tools are designed to work together.

Micki briefly reviewed pertinent sections of the House Bill; and fielded committee questions.

Mark Mead complimented everyone who worked on the Bill, through passage, for their efforts.

Committee Business

Linden quickly went through some of the handouts, pointing out pertinent information. RCW 35.105 is not complete the packets; but links to the document in its entirety may be found on the ECA TAC or CTED web pages. .

Sarah explained the travel reimbursement process, and handed out travel vouchers to the Committee members. Vouchers should be signed and mailed, with receipts, to the DNR, attention Vicki Lee, for processing

It was decided the next meeting would be March 17, 2009, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tina Melton will check and confirm facility availability at the PSE Building in Kent, WA

The meeting in April is scheduled for the 20th, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Terry Flatley will confirm a Renton location and report to the committee.

Input and Discussion about Key Elements of Inventory

Linden explained the next couple of meetings will focus on data collection and techniques. It is assumed that a model inventory will be developed to focus on “street trees”. An analysis of street tree data will be used to assess the condition of the urban forest.

There ensued an animated discussion on the definition of a statewide tree inventory and assessment. It was the opinion of the TAC that it is essential for an assessment to include data collected through remote sensing (aerial photography and/or satellite imagery) in order to capture the contribution of trees in parks and natural areas as well as trees on private property. The committee pointed out that well over half of urban and community trees grow on private property and/or are privately maintained. Simply inventorying street trees would not give an accurate picture of the resource.

1 Linden suggested that the model developed by the US Forest Service Urban Forestry Northern Research
2 Station may be an option for assessing the entire urban forestry resource. Pilot projects have been
3 accomplished in Wisconsin, Indiana, and Georgia. A link to the WI project is posted on the TAC
4 webpage. The project is ground based and uses random sample plots to collect data within urban areas
5 throughout the state. Plots include private as well as public land; however permission must be received to
6 gather data on private land. The Pilot projects demonstrated that the process is a cost effective way to
7 collect data, and gave the state a good snapshot of the health and condition of the urban forest.

8 Because inventories need to be designed to meet the needs of local management, Linden suggested that
9 creating a criteria matrix would outline and capture data pertinent to parks and open area inventories as
10 well as data included in street tree inventories.

11 The committee recommended considering two models, a ground based inventory completed in
12 conjunction with a remote sensing model, in order to capture both public and private tree inventory data.

13 In discussing types of surveys it was agreed that survey protocol would be dependent on the goals of
14 individual jurisdictions. The committee stated that because this is a voluntary program, the inventory
15 process should be relatively uncomplicated, to encourage participation.

16 It was recommended that the DNR prioritize and select mandatory data points.

17 Three sections of the bill were pointed out by committee members to illustrate the committee's
18 recommendation for remote sensing:

19 Section 4.1(b) of the House Bill states: "For purposes of efficiency, existing data and current inventory
20 technologies must be utilized in the development of the inventory." LANDSAT is currently available and
21 has been successfully utilized by the city of Bellevue to assess their urban forest canopy.

22 Section 4.1 (d) of House Bill states: "the criteria for the statewide community and urban forest inventory
23 may include but is not limited to: tree size, species, location, site appropriateness, condition of health,
24 contribution to canopy cover and volume, available planting spaces, and ecosystem, economic, social, and
25 monetary value." In order to obtain this data, it is essential that a canopy analysis be completed with
26 remote sensing.

27 Section 2 primarily states, that the legislature seeks information in order to improve community and urban
28 forestry in Washington. Canopy assessment will assist communities with long range planning that will
29 ultimately improve this valuable resource.

30 Linden told the committee that the next meeting of the TAC will be used to discuss data collection
31 technologies and management tools, with the goal of developing recommendations for the criteria and
32 implementation plan for the inventory and assessment project. Future meetings will tie in with those
33 sections outlined.

34 The committee reiterated that collection of urban forest canopy data with remote sensing technology
35 should be a priority, as that information will assist communities in long range planning decisions. Follow
36 up with a ground survey will provide information on the health of the resource.

1 Sarah Griffith commented that using available resources, including remote sensing technology could be a
2 recommendation of the TAC. The next issue is to recognize that the legislation wants DNR to provide
3 tools for tree inventories for municipalities. The DNR and TAC need to focus on that in addition to the
4 recommendation to prioritize canopy assessment with remote sensing technology. It will be necessary to
5 first gain the support of the legislature and, when funding becomes available, provide an “inventory tool
6 kit” to local jurisdictions will help them meet local management goals.

7 It was suggested by the committee that each community collect inventory data individually, and DNR
8 collect and analyze the data. Scott Maco reported that the USFS NE Urban Forestry Research Station is
9 moving toward building such a database. He mentioned that the STRATUM linear data collection system,
10 (a shareware software distributed by the USFS) has been used successfully to collect and then analyze
11 tree inventory data, providing a meaningful assessment of the urban forest.

12 In summary, the TAC provided some good ideas on assessment tools for data collection. Linden
13 requested that, if Committee members have information on canopy assessment tools; they please forward
14 them to her before the next meeting.

15 Next meeting will discuss criteria and implementation.

16 Meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.